

June 25, 2021 (13:30PM-15:30PM)

**Oriol Esculies, Association Proyecto Hombre**

Statement

*Mr/Madam Chair, Excellencies, Colleagues,*

*I speak on behalf the Association Proyecto Hombre which is a civil society organization working on drug prevention, treatment, and social reintegration in Spain.*

Based on the World Drug Report trends and the UNODC campaign just presented, we hereby reaffirm, now and after the pandemic, the necessity to face drug-related problems with a comprehensive, science-based, health-centered approach.

First, to foster the future of our next generation by investing in quality drug prevention based on efficacy standards. It is worth mentioning the collaboration with the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Sector of UNODC in a joint large longitudinal study for evaluating prevention in Spain.

Second, to reduce the suffering of those affected and their families by expanding accessible, bio-psycho-social treatment and social reintegration services, especially available and tailored for vulnerable groups such as women, children, ethnic minorities, people with multiple disorders or in prison.

Third, to destigmatize people who use drugs and decriminalize the use of drugs by embedding human rights in drug policies at all levels. Alternatives to incarceration, access to controlled substances, or abolition of death penalty must be promoted.

And fourth, to raise awareness about drug-related causes and consequences, as well as actively involve all relevant stakeholders in reaching sustainable solutions, without forgetting the irreplaceable role of Civil Society Organizations.

As one of many examples in the world, our organization publishes annual reports from the Observatory Proyecto Hombre, identifying the characteristics of people with Substance Use Disorders. From there arises the knowledge that leads to the improvement of the interventions according to their needs.

In conclusion, we acknowledge UNODC and the Commission for undertaking this necessary World Drug Report that undoubtedly helps guide the action of organizations worldwide, and our deepest appreciation for giving room to civil society to participate in the 'World Drug Day'. Leave no one behind!